

# The East Central University Honors Program

Our Honors Program offers an enhanced educational experience to academically talented, highly motivated students. If that describes you, read on.

## Why Should You Be an Honors Student at ECU?

- **Because you will join a community.**

Online SummerRead conversations, the SummerSocial, and the Honors Kickoff all take place before classes begin. By joining the Honors Program, you give yourself a chance to meet many of the brightest, most motivated students at ECU.

Choose to join other Honors students living in the Honors wing in Knight Hall, and you will have other Honors students as your neighbors and suitemates.

- **Because you're smart and intellectually curious.**

During your first four semesters on campus, you will enroll in discussion-based general education seminars offered only to Honors students. While most general education courses have enrollments of thirty-five or more, enrollment in these innovative Honors seminars is capped at fifteen.

All Honors students work one-on-one with professors of their choosing on subjects of their choosing to complete upper-division research projects or theses.

As an honors student in good standing, you enroll before all other students, so you will always be sure to get in the course you need to take at the time you need to take it.

- **Because you are ambitious.**

Recent graduates of ECU's Honors Program have been accepted into graduate and medical school programs at Stanford, Dartmouth, and Johns Hopkins, in addition to medical, graduate and professional programs in Oklahoma and neighboring states. When you graduate with Honors, your transcripts will note your Honors status, and your name will be marked in graduation programs. All Honors Program graduates wear distinctive regalia, participate in a prestigious Honors graduation ceremony, and are formally recognized during Commencement ceremonies.

- **Because you can seize opportunities beyond ECU.**

In recent years, we've traveled to New York City, South Padre Island, San Francisco and Boston. Join the Honors Program, and you will probably see parts of the world you've never seen before.

## Have questions? Turn the page. Or contact us:

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You can also find us on the web at: [www.ecok.edu/honors](http://www.ecok.edu/honors)  
or [www.ecuhonors.blogspot.com](http://www.ecuhonors.blogspot.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Honors Program

## 1. What does it take to qualify to apply for the Honors Program?

Each application is considered on a case by case basis. Priority consideration is given to applicants with a 3.5 high school grade point average and an ACT composite score of 26 or higher.

## 2. What does it take to stay in the Honors Program?

You will need to maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA, make steady progress toward fulfilling your Honors requirements each semester, and fulfill community service hour requirements (currently four hours per semester).

## 3. What does it take to graduate with University Honors?

You need to complete seven challenge to graduate with University Honors:

- 4 Honors Seminars (these seminars replace general education courses required of all students)

- 1 off-campus engagement experience (internship, study abroad, Oklahoma Scholar Leaders Enrichment Program, etc.)

- 2 semesters of upper division research or creative projects (two Honors projects or a single, two-semester Honors thesis)

It is possible to complete all of these challenges by the end of your junior year.

## 4. Are Honors seminars much more difficult than regular General Education courses?

We recruit the most dynamic professors on campus for our Honors General Education courses. We don't tell them to make the courses more difficult; we tell them to make the courses discussion based. Because these courses usually admit no more than fifteen students, it is easier to make the courses more interactive and engaging. Students in Honors seminars usually find that their grades are about the same, and maybe even higher, than those they get in regular courses.

## 5. Is there added expense?

First-year students pay a one-time \$50 fee to support Honors Student Association activities for their four years in the program, but unlike some schools, we don't charge extra for our honors courses. By enrolling in the Honors Program, you will be getting the most benefit from your tuition dollars.

## 6. Can I be in the honors program while I'm an athlete/a cheerleader/ a band member?

Yes. Several current Honors students and recent graduates have been varsity athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band, choir and theatre programs, and leaders of student government and Greek organizations.

## 7. I've enrolled concurrently, taken AP courses, or plan to take CLEP exams. Won't taking Honors seminars prolong the time it takes me to graduate?

Many honors students take AP courses and get course credit through exams taken. Most do not take courses that meet the same requirements covered by Honors General Education courses. Students who come to ECU having already completed their Composition II credit can complete an additional Honors Project instead of taking the Honors equivalent of that course.

## 8. What if I'm not certain I can handle it?

Try it for a semester. If it's not for you, it's easy to change your mind. We can change your coding, and you can continue your studies at ECU as a traditional student without delaying your progress towards graduation.

## 9. Is scholarship money available especially for Honors students?

Yes. The Honors Program expects to offer as many as twenty incoming first-year applicants tuition waivers as high as \$3000 per year plus room waivers as high as \$1500 per year.

## 10. Is entrance to the Honors Program limited to recipients of Honors tuition waivers?

No. For most of our history at ECU, the Honors Program has been comprised entirely of students who chose Honors for its intrinsic benefits, and we expect this will continue to be the case.